

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A An image-extracting method of laying out images extracted extracting images~~ from a plurality of images ~~on pages of a photo album~~, comprising:

a setting step of setting a number of ~~the~~ images to be extracted from the plurality of images according to a user operation;

a recognition step of recognizing evaluations for the plurality of images, wherein the evaluations are values set for the plurality of images by a user and designating rating scores of the plurality of images evaluated by the user; ~~and~~

an extraction step of extracting the set number of the images from the plurality of images based on the recognized evaluations; ~~and~~

a layout step of laying out the images extracted in said extraction step in accordance with an order of priority previously set to layout regions for images to be laid out on each of the pages of the photo album.

wherein the previously set order of priority is determined in said layout step based on a parameter different from the evaluations.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A An image-extracting~~ method according to claim 15, wherein said input step comprises sequentially inputting the evaluations for respective ones of the plurality of images.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A An image-extracting~~ method according to claim 2, wherein the evaluations are input in chronological order.

4. (Currently Amended) A ~~An image-extracting~~ method according to claim 15, wherein said input step comprises inputting an instruction for image correction processing including an image correction, in addition to inputting the evaluations.

5. – 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A ~~An image-extracting~~ method according to claim 1, further comprising a division step of dividing the plurality of images into a plurality of groups, and wherein said extraction step comprises extracting at least one image from the images belonging to each of the groups into which the plurality of images are divided and executing the extraction of the images until a number of images extracted from all the groups reaches to the set number.

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~An image-extracting~~ method according to claim 7, wherein said division step comprises designating a group to which each of the plurality of images is to belong and carrying out the division according to the designated group.

9. (Currently Amended) A ~~An image-extracting~~ method according to claim 7, wherein said division step comprises dividing the images according to at least one selected from times of creation of the images and a change in scenes of the images.

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~An image-extracting~~ method according to claim 7, further comprising an extraction number input step of inputting a number of images to be extracted from each of the groups into which the plurality of images is divided.

11. – 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A ~~An image-extracting~~ method according to claim 15, wherein the evaluations are values intermediate between a predetermined highest value and a predetermined lowest value.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ ~~An image extracting~~ method according to claim 1, further comprising an input step of inputting the values of the evaluations for the plurality of images.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~An image extracting~~ apparatus that lays out images extracted extracts images from a plurality of images on pages of a photo album, comprising:

a setting device adapted to set a number of the images to be extracted from the plurality of images according to a user operation;

a recognition device adapted to recognize evaluations for the plurality of images, wherein the evaluations are values set for the plurality of images by a user and designating rating scores of the plurality of images evaluated by the user; and

an extraction device adapted to extract the set number of the images from the plurality of images based on the recognized evaluations; and

a layout device adapted to lay out the images extracted by said extraction device in accordance with an order of priority previously set to layout regions for images to be laid out on each of the pages of the photo album.

wherein the previously set order of priority is determined by said layout device based on a parameter different from the evaluations.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute ~~a~~ ~~an image extracting~~ method of laying out images extracted extracting images from a plurality of images on pages of a photo album, the image extracting method comprising:

a setting step of setting a number of the images to be extracted from the plurality of images according to a user operation;

a recognition step of recognizing evaluations for the plurality of images, wherein the evaluations are values set for the plurality of images by a user and designating rating scores of the plurality of images evaluated by the user; and

an extraction step of extracting the set number of the images from the plurality of images based on the recognized evaluations; and

a layout step of laying out the images extracted in said extraction step in accordance with an order of priority previously set to layout regions for images to be laid out on each of the pages of the photo album,

wherein the previously set order of priority is determined in said layout step based on a parameter different from the evaluations.

18. (Currently Amended) A An-image-extracting method of laying out images extracted extracting images from a plurality of images on pages of a photo album, comprising:

a setting step of setting a number of the images to be extracted from the plurality of images;

a recognition step of recognizing evaluations for the plurality of images, wherein the evaluations are values set for the plurality of images by a user and designating rating scores of the plurality of images evaluated by the user; and

an extracting step of extracting the set number of the images from the plurality of images in descending order of the recognized evaluations; and

a layout step of laying out the extracted images in said extraction step in accordance with an order of priority previously set to each of layout regions for laying out images on the pages of the photo album,

wherein the order of priority previously set in said layout step is determined based on a

parameter different from the evaluations.

19. (Currently Amended) An ~~image extracting~~ apparatus that lays out images extracted ~~extracts images~~ from a plurality of images on pages of a photo album, comprising:

a setting device adapted to set a number of the images to be extracted from the plurality of images;

a recognition device adapted to recognize evaluations for the plurality of images, wherein the evaluations are values set for the plurality of images by a user and designating rating scores of the plurality of images evaluated by the user; and

an extracting device adapted to extract the set number of the images from the plurality of images in descending order of the recognized evaluations; and

a layout device adapted to lay out the images extracted by said extraction device in accordance with an order of priority previously set to layout regions for images to be laid out on each of the pages of the photo album.

wherein the previously set order of priority is determined by said layout device based on a parameter different from the evaluations.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute ~~a an image extracting~~ method of laying out images extracted ~~extracting images~~ from a plurality of images on pages of a photo album, the image extracting method comprising:

a setting step of setting a number of images to be extracted from the plurality of images;

a recognition step of recognizing evaluations for the plurality of images, wherein the evaluations are values set for the plurality of images by a user and designating rating scores of the plurality of images evaluated by the user; and

an extracting step of extracting the set number of the images from the plurality of images in descending order of the recognized evaluations; and

a layout step of laying out the extracted images in said extraction step in accordance with an order of priority previously set to each of layout regions for laying out images on the pages of the photo album,

wherein the order of priority previously set in said layout step is determined based on a parameter different from the evaluations.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ ~~An image extracting~~ method according to claim 1, wherein said extracting step comprises eliminating an image, the recognized evaluation of which is lower than a specific value, from the set number of images, even where the total number of the extracted images does not reach to the set number.

22. – 23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ ~~An image extracting~~ method of laying out images extracted ~~extracting images~~ from a plurality of images on pages of a photo album, comprising:

a setting step of setting a number of the images to be extracted from the plurality of images according to a user operation;

a recognition step of recognizing evaluations for the plurality of images, wherein the evaluations are values set for a plurality of images by a user and designating rating scores of the plurality of images evaluated by the user;

a division step of dividing the plurality of images into a plurality of groups;

an extraction step of extracting the set number of the images from the plurality of images based on the recognized evaluations; and

a layout step of laying out ~~an arranging step of arranging~~ the set number of images

extracted in said extraction step based on a parameter different from the evaluations,

wherein said extraction step comprises extracting at least one image from the images belonging to each of the groups into which the plurality of images are divided and executing the extraction of the images until a number of images extracted from all the groups reaches to the set number, and

wherein said extracting step comprises eliminating an image, the recognized evaluations of which is lower than a specific value, from the set number of images, even where the total number of the extracted images does not reach to the set number.

25. (Currently Amended) An ~~image extracting~~ apparatus that lays out images extracted ~~extracts images~~ from a plurality of images on pages of a photo album, comprising:

a setting device adapted to set a number of the images to be extracted from the plurality of images according to a user operation;

a recognition device adapted to recognize evaluations for the plurality of images, wherein the evaluations are values set for a plurality of images by a user and designating rating scores of the plurality of images evaluated by the user;

a division device adapted to divide the plurality of images into a plurality of groups;

an extraction device adapted to extract the set number of the images from the plurality of images based on the recognized evaluations; and

a layout device adapted to lay out ~~an arranging device adapted to arrange~~ the set number of images extracted in said extraction device based on a parameter different from the evaluations,

wherein said extraction device extracts at least one image from the images belonging to each of the groups into which the plurality of images are divided and executes the extraction of

the images until a number of images extracted from all the groups reaches to the set number, and

wherein said extracting device eliminates an image, the recognized evaluations of which is lower than a specific value, from the set number of images, even where the total number of the extracted images does not reach to the set number.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute ~~a an image extracting~~ method of laying out images extracted extracting images from a plurality of images on pages of a photo album, the image extracting method comprising:

a setting step of setting a number of the images to be extracted from the plurality of images according to a user operation;

a recognition step of recognizing evaluations for the plurality of images, wherein the evaluations are values set for a plurality of images by a user and designating rating scores of the plurality of images evaluated by the user;

a division step of dividing the plurality of images into a plurality of groups;

an extraction step of extracting the set number of the images from the plurality of images based on the recognized evaluations; and

a layout step of laying out ~~an arranging step of arranging~~ the set number of images extracted in said extraction step based on a parameter different from the evaluations,

wherein said extraction step comprises extracting at least one image from the images belonging to each of the groups into which the plurality of images are divided and executing the extraction of the images until a number of images extracted from all the groups reaches to the set number, and

wherein said extracting step comprises eliminating an image, the recognized evaluations of which is lower than a specific value, from the set number of images, even where the total number of the extracted images does not reach to the set number.

27. (New) A method according to claim 1, further comprising a determining step of determining, when laying out the extracted images on a page of the photo album including a plurality of layout regions at least one of which is different in size from the other, an image to be laid out at one of the plurality of layout regions from the extracted images, based on data included in the extracted images respectively corresponding to the order of priority.

28. (New) An apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising a determining device adapted to determine, when laying out the extracted images on a page of the photo album including a plurality of layout regions at least one of which is different in size from the other, an image to be laid out at one of the plurality of layout regions from the extracted images, based on data included in the extracted images respectively corresponding to the order of priority.

29. (New) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 17, the method further comprising a determining step of determining, when laying out the extracted images on a page of the photo album including a plurality of layout regions at least one of which is different in size from the other, an image to be laid out at one of the plurality of layout regions from the extracted images, based on data included in the extracted images respectively corresponding to the order of priority.